



U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideaki KUME et al.

Group Art Unit: 1795

Application No.: 10/593,482

Examiner: A. KWON

Filed: September 20, 2006

Docket No.: 129189

For: FUEL CELL STACK

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the April 27, 2009 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species 3, Figure 5, with traverse. At least claims 1, 2 and 7 read on the elected species, and at least claims 1 and 2 are generic to all species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 27, 2009

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